

Adoption

The regenerating work of God that occurs at the point of believing and receiving Jesus Christ for salvation brings a guilty sinner from a state of spiritual death into the newness and fullness of spiritual life. This new birth experience brings us into the family of God and establishes a spiritual relationship which can never be broken.

The truth of REGENERATION is about CHILDREN being born into the family of God (John 1:12-13), whereas the truth of ADOPTION is about placing **sons in the service of God**. With regard to our position as CHILDREN, it is all about RELATIONSHIP (Love, development and growth in Christ), whereas when it comes to SONS it is all about RESPONSIBILITY (Privilege, honour and duty toward the Lord Jesus Christ).

Definition of NT ADOPTION: The placing of believers in Christ to the legal status of sons of God

Some important points regarding adoption:

- The term used is SONS, not sons and daughters. (Note: 2Cor 6:18 uses the term “sons and daughters” but the context is referring to our relationship as children in God’s family). Both male and female are elevated to the same privileged position at the point of salvation to SONS, being all “one in Christ” by faith.
- The regenerating work of God actually imparts to the believing sinner new life, which is the very life that God possesses in and of his own divine nature. This is something that an adopting parent can never do for the child that they bring into their family because they do not have the same DNA.

The PHRASE of ADOPTION. Rom 8:14-15. *“...the Spirit you received brought about your **adoption** to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba Father.”* The indwelling Spirit of God that comes into our beings at the point of receiving Christ alone by faith for salvation, prompts and motivates us as a result of this new divine life, to call upon God as our heavenly Father.

The PURPOSE of ADOPTION – Eph 1:3-6. *“..In love he predestined us for **adoption** to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will...”* In combination with Rom 8:29 where it says that he predestined us *“to be conformed to the image of his Son”* we see that it is God’s purpose to surround himself with many sons conformed to the image of his only begotten Son.

The PRIVILEGE of ADOPTION – Gal 4:1-7. *“...But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive **adoption** to sonship... you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.”* All believers are brought from a position of slaves in bondage to the law of God into a position of privilege as SONS (v5) in God’s administration (his kingdom), no longer a slave but now a SON and an heir of all of the riches and blessings of God that come to us through Christ (v7).

The PROSPECT of ADOPTION – Rom 8:17-23. *“...we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our **adoption** to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.”*

For the believer, God the Father has determined that all will be glorified together with Christ as *“co-heirs with Christ”* v17. The prospect of receiving glorified bodies to be able to enter into the full blessing of being sons of God (v23) is the future hope that God has for every believer in Christ.